

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

The present application is a divisional of application Serial No. 10/076,484, filed on February 19, 2002, which is a divisional of Application Serial No. 09/632,937 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,360,057), filed on August 4, 2000, which is a divisional of Application Serial No. 09/564,538 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,480,669), filed on May 4, 2000, each of which is incorporated herein by reference.

Claims 32-35 are currently pending. Claims 1-31 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new Claims 32-35 are added, by the present amendment. Applicants respectfully submit that support for new Claims 32-35 is self-evident from the specification as originally filed, including Figure 7 and the originally-filed claims. The specification has been amended to include a cross reference to related applications. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

Accordingly, examination of the present application on the merits is believed to be in order. An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully solicited.

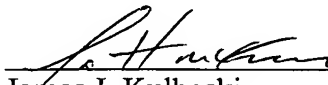
Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 08/03)

JJK/SAM/CHY:pch
I:\ATTY\CHY\249656_PREL AM 16MAR04.DOC


James J. Kulbaski
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 34,648

Scott A. McKeown
Registration No. 42,866